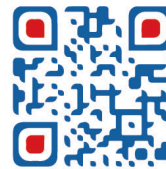


# BEIJING TODAY

## METRO



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## What is Zen?

Fang Xinyuan, Han Cansha, Huang Shifeng and Hu Mingqiang are considered masters in their respective artistic fields.

The four are coming together for a Zen-themed experimental exhibition at 3181 Gallery that attempts to connect Chinese artists with supportive commercial ventures.

Pages 4-5

## 2014 grads face salary crash

Page 2

## Officials fall in corruption probe

Page 3

## Abusers benefit from weak sex ed

Page 6



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# Forgotten amusement park featured abroad

By ZHAO HONGYI  
Beijing Today Staff

Beijing's languishing Wonderland Amusement Park in Changping District is getting new attention for all the wrong reasons.

The unfinished amusement park recently made a list of the world's seven most interesting unfinished buildings in a recent report by *The Times*. It was featured alongside World Island in Dubai, the Ryugyong Hotel in Pyongyang, Brandenburg Airport in Berlin and the Harmon Hotel in Las Vegas.

## Wonderland no more

Wonderland Amusement Park began construction in 1994 with an investment of nearly 800 million yuan from Reignwood Group.

"It was a good memory. My grandmother was living by the amusement park. I usually went to her house and dreamed of playing there. I could imagine what it must be like inside the city," said Sun Lihua, a 20-year-old university student.

"My mother used to say she would take me to the park if I studied hard. Who knew it would end up a pile of dust and half-finished buildings?" she said.

Set on an area the size of nearly 125 soccer fields, the massive park was intended as Beijing's answer to Tokyo Disney Resort. Its blueprints called for luxury hotels, shopping malls and a winding food street.

Construction halted in 1998 when the South-

east Asian financial crisis caused Reignwood Group to tighten its purse strings. The project also ran afoul of the local government by occupying more than 13 hectares of public forest and failing to obtain several of the necessary development certificates.

Today, Reignwood Group is mostly interested in selling Red Bull energy drinks.

The group discussed resuming the amusement park for the Beijing Olympics, but it ultimately canceled the project.

## Broken promises

Nearby villagers who were too eager to benefit from the park made several catastrophic choices.

A number of them resigned from their jobs or demolished their homes to make way for a series of inns that would cater to the park.

Many were unable to work and could only attempt to cultivate land that had been covered in construction waste.

Today, the half-finished towers and castles have become a recreational site for children. Many local couples head to the dusty ruins for their dates.

The park has also drawn many urban explorers and experimental photographers eager to use its dilapidated buildings as an adventure paradise.

Last year, Reignwood redesigned its plan for the land with the assistance of the Changping government. The new blueprint calls for turning it into an 85,000-square-meter Great Wall Shopping City.



The wonderland is left half done.

CFP Photo

# Salaries plummet for 2014 graduates

By ZHAO HONGYI  
Beijing Today Staff

A new school semester may have started, but 2014's graduates are still on the hunt for a job. Beijing's job market is not only tougher than ever – it's paying less.

In a survey of this year's graduates conducted by the Market and Media Research Center of Peking University, researchers found that most were earning 2,400 yuan: far less than any time in the last decade.

While new graduates have coped with the realities of the job market by relying on their parents, this new crash in salaries has many worried about whether they will ever be able to afford the costs of marriage and family life.

Wu Di graduated from a local financial school in June and spent months hunting for a job before being hired by a securities company in the Central Business District. In his first month he earned less than 4,000 yuan – 3,500 after taxes.

As a new employee, the company garnished 40 percent of his wages and bonuses during the first six months.

"Living on the campus and eating in the school cafeteria made it possible to sur-



The tough job market is forcing grads into start-ups and the military. CFP Photo

vive on very little. But now that we have to take care of everything ourselves, it's different," Wu said.

Together with the costs of rent, utilities and food, Wu's salary is almost completely exhausted.

"If I have something urgent, like needing to buy a gift for a friend's wedding, I have to borrow money from my parents," he said.

China had 7.27 million university graduates – 270,000 more than in 2013.

"There's a disconnect in our education system. Students are being trained for an academic career but are being employed for business or labor. They lack the skills to make their companies grow and consequently can never earn promotions or higher salaries," said Chen Yu, chairman of China Recruitment Promotion Association.

"After studying for so many years, I never imagined I would earn so little," Wu said.

Bai Fang, a civil engineering grad in Wuhan, Hubei Province, has been similarly discouraged by her salary of 2,200 yuan.

"I understand it's common in the beginning. I hope that as I gain experience I can get up to 4,000 yuan," she said.

Zhang Yu, a graduate in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, got a job in the marketing department of a private company where he earns 2,500 yuan per month. His

classmate Wang Li found a job in a State-owned company where he earns 4,000 yuan and is given access to a housing fund.

More than 35 percent of graduates polled said they would prefer to work in a State-owned company.

According to Zhaopin.com, China's largest recruitment agency, the average income during the first year for fresh university graduates is 3,000 yuan. Those employed in finance, securities or futures tend to earn around 4,500 yuan.

Most see their first significant raise after five years.

"Most of the fresh graduates who insist on staying in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou are from the absolute poorest parts of the countryside. They can't get any support from their families, but they want to stay in the city for its opportunities," said Lian Si, a demographer at the University of International Business and Economics.

"Most would have a better future in a second-tier or developing city," said Wang Ling, a vice professor of psychology at Fudan University in Shanghai. "There are far more opportunities hiding in those cities."



# Corruption fight an 'earthquake for officialdom'

By YANG XIN  
Beijing Today Staff

The Chinese Central Commission of Discipline Inspection (CCDI) announced that Bai Yun, Bai Enpei and Ren Runhou had been convicted of corruption on August 29.

Together with two senior officials in Shanxi Province arrested six days earlier, there are five officials who have been brought down on charges of corruption in the last week.

## Unprecedented battle

China's current War on Corruption began at the 18th National Congress of

the Communist Party of China (CPC). After taking control of the country in late 2012, President Xi Jinping vowed to target both "flies and tigers" alike in his fight against corruption.

At least on the surface, Xi seems to be keeping his promises. China's leaders are convulsing under the fiercest anti-corruption drive in more than 60 years.

Since the congress, nearly 63,000 party officials have been punished and 50 senior figures arrested. The rolls include former members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau and top military leaders.

Only five years ago, the mere investigation of officials was unusual. As few as

32 above the provincial level were investigated every two months.

Twenty-one months after the 18th National Congress, nearly 50 officials have been toppled and five jailed every two months. In some provinces, more than half of all Standing Committee members have come under investigation.

Few officials appear safe from such scrutiny.

The investigation of Zhou Yongkang, a former member of the nine-man Standing Committee that runs China, broke an important taboo. No current or former member of the Standing Committee was prosecuted during the previous 25 years.

The downfall of Bai Enpei, the former top official in Yunnan Province, and Su Rong, former vice chairman of the country's top political advisory body, were further evidence that the "safe zone" for corrupt officials is shrinking.

Even State-owned enterprises can't protect corrupt officials. More than 30 senior executives in the oil, electric and coal industries have been brought down since the campaign began.

The CCDI website has been a major tool in tackling corruption. Since it was launched only a year ago, more than 15,000 people have registered with their real names to deliver more than 800 tips per day.

The Central Inspection Group, which attempts to identify rogue officials who escaped justice in the past, has also been important. By operating above the local level, the group is empowered to penetrate many of the cover-ups at lower institutions. Its efforts have been responsible for numerous arrests in the provinces of Shanxi, Jiangxi and Guangdong.

International cooperation has been another important achievement. At the electric APEC Senior Anti-corruption Seminar held in Beijing on August 14, US official Robert Wang said China and the US could cooperate more to seize ill-gotten assets and combat commercial bribery.

In July, the Ministry of Public Security carried out Operation Fox Hunt 2014, an investigation of 18 major economic crimes that saw numerous fugitive officials sent home from abroad.

"Such an aggressive campaign has never happened since China's economic reforms of the early 1980s," said Huang Weiting, a researcher at the *Qiushi Journal*, a publication of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Ren Jianming, a professor at the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, called the anti-corruption an "earthquake in the ranks of officialdom." "The new approach to official management is being passed on to authorities at the lower level," Ren said.

As the campaign tightens, many authorities have announced a determination to



A 'fruitful' outcome  
CFP Photos

eliminate the roots.

At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the National People's Political Consultative Conference on August 25, Wang Qishan, head of Central Discipline Inspection Commission, said the salaries and reimbursement systems for civil servants are being modified to discourage officials from abusing their power to seize money.

Reforms in the provincial commission for discipline inspection are being processed and will be completed by this year. According to the CCDI, 31 provinces have received approval from central government with 12 finished by June.

Rebuilding local system of discipline inspection is a crucial step in China's anti-corruption campaign. According to Chen Wenqing, deputy secretary of the CCDI, the reforms will build up discipline inspection offices and enhance the efficiency of law enforcement by 36 percent.

Provincial officials including Ling Zhengce, Du Shanxue and Shen Weichen were all brought down within days of their most recent public appearances.

"The fact that these officials knew nothing about the busts shows that the discipline inspection commission is good at keeping secrets," said Xu Yaotong, a professor at the National School of Administration.

## Outcomes expected

The anti-corruption campaign is generally acknowledged as one of the requirements for reforms laid out in the 18th Central Committee. "Rotten officials not only devour the achievements of our reforms but disrupt public confidence. Allowing corruption to fester until it causes social unrest would hinder the progress of our reforms," said Zhou Qiren, a professor at Peking University.

Although the public was skeptical at the start of this campaign, Chinese netizens are gradually warming up to the idea of it having a positive outcome, according to recent polls.

Nevertheless, the anti-corruption campaign is dragging down high-end sectors of the Chinese economy.

"Lou Jiwei, the Minister of Finance, cited Beijing's catering industry as evidence. Several gourmet restaurants have been forced to close even while middle-class restaurants are thriving," said Wu Jinglian, an economist.

According to a report in the *China Youth Daily*, the anti-corruption campaign has positively affected the economy in three ways: it is creating a fairer development environment, promoting efficiency and is cleaving the dead weight from existing development.



Eryuehe says the latest anti-corruption campaign has been unprecedented.



# Art and antique exhibition

By ZHAO HONGYI

Beijing Today Staff

3181 Gallery is exhibiting f  
connection between ancient

Han Cansha

China's top gongbi painter

Born in Beijing, Han Cansha is a graduate of the Central Academy of Fine Arts and the Art College of Capital Normal University.

Han's art fuses the techniques of traditional Chinese painters from distant dynasties, such as Song and Yuan with the modern techniques of such artists as Zhang Daqian and Guan Lin. His paintings were collected by the Beijing-based Imperial Academy of Painting, the Louvre Museum, the British Museum, the National Museum of China, the Chinese Academy of Government Administration, the Chinese Academy of Governance, and the Louvre in Paris.

While appreciated for his linear style, Han's gongbi paintings of the moon, night scenes and winter scenes that brought him fame. He is proud to have four of his paintings at this exhibition.

"It's by keeping our eyes open and seriously appreciating the world around us that we can discover Zen," Han said.

Han's paintings exaggerate colors and scenes to give a new impression of daily imagery.

Fang Xinyuan

Master of flowers and birds

Fang Xinyuan was born in 1953 in Xinyi County, Shandong Province. His solo exhibitions have been displayed in Jinan, Shandong Province, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, and at exhibitions in Singapore, Germany, Japan and the US.

Many critics consider Fang the finest living painter of flowers and birds. He has authored three books that introduce his techniques.

Noted for their balance between the subjects and surrounding space, Fang's paintings allow the viewer to take a breath and appreciate the atmosphere they depict. The flowers are fresh, the birds are active and the spaces big enough for you to imagine a leisurely life.

"Zen is for leisure time. It's when you can appreciate the environment surrounding you. A glance at the colorful flowers and birds around us can give you the energy to survive," Fang said.

Fang is classified as a National First Class Artist and a member of the Shandong Provincial Studio.



Birds

Fang Xinyuan



Ancient Sculpture

Huang Shifeng



Bird

Han Cansha



# Art tackles the topic of Zen

Four modern Chinese artists who show the art beads and Zen.

## Huang Shifeng

Copper sculptress

Huang Shifang is a master of copper sculpture who held her first solo exhibition in 1994. Her pieces tend to feature ancient elements such as ritual music instruments and daily tools such as stoves and bowls.

Huang graduated from the Art Academy of Tsinghua University in 1992 and first worked as a correspondent for the China Press and Publishing Journal in Xi'an, Shanxi Province. In 1997, she began teaching at the Art Academy of Tsinghua University.

Huang's creations have been featured in such publications as the *People's Review*, the *People's Daily*, *Takung Pao*, *China Youth Daily* and *Chinese Culture Daily*.

Huang uses bold lines and exaggerated faces in her sculptures. "Ancient works remind me of what Zen is. History is something we should seriously study as we can learn much," Huang said.

She is currently working on what she hopes will be the greatest piece, but its completion will require her to dig deeper into history and culture.

"It's part of Zen. You have to understand it before you can create," Huang said.

## Hu Mingqiang

New generation of ink

Hu Mingqiang is one of China's leading painters of flowers and birds and a master of mountain and river scenes.

Hu abstracts mountains and rivers from real life, turning them into paintings that resemble photographic negatives.

"Zen is the ultimate pursuit of my career. I used to chase academic degrees. Now what I need to do is put what I learned to use to create something that can enrich the lives of viewers," Hu said. "That's the way I understand Zen."

Hu's paintings feature exaggerated scenes with rich blues and yellows that create a mirror image of idealized reality.

Inspired by the ancient philosophy of Laozi and Zhuangzi, Hu believes in letting things develop naturally while staying optimistic about the result.



Honeybee beads sold at the exhibition

## Future is beautiful and in our hands

The collected Zen exhibition is organized by the Ancient Beads and Zen Life Private Club and Huaxia One Heart Culture Broadcasting. Together, they are selling beeswax beads and antiques at the exhibition as a business tie-in.

Chinese art commentator Liu Ning recently wrote an article pointing out how 798 Art District has failed to connect creative exhibitions with businesses. The commercial show is hoped to raise money to support future artistic creations.

"Only through commercial ventures can 798 Area Zone continue to foster the artistic development it did in its early years. The zone must integrate with business if it is to survive," Liu said.

Traditionally, China's artists have come from the scholar class and have been shy to discuss business. Encouraging artists to take control of their financial future may be necessary to ensure the art world's rapid development, Liu said.

"It's worth a try. We are exploring new ways to support our work," said Wang Shen, curator of the exhibition and the owner of 3818 Gallery.

## 3818 Gallery

**Where:** 11 Dong Jie, 798 Art District, Chaoyang District

**When:** 10 am-5 pm, through September 30, closed Mondays

**Tel:** 5602 8818

Photos provided by 3818 Gallery



Birds Heard the Spring

Han Cansha



Spring Wind in Beijing

Hu Mingqiang



# Molestation case a reminder of the holes in China's sex ed

By DIAO DIAO  
Beijing Today Staff

The nation's attention has returned to child safety with the sentencing of Liu Zhi, a man from Hebei Province who molested numerous children in Beijing during the last five years.

Liu, who will be serving five years in prison for child molestation, said he targeted children who were left playing alone in the countryside and offered them money in exchange for sexual favors. When money didn't work, he threatened violence.

While Liu is not the capital's most serious offender, he is unusual in that all his victims were young boys. In questioning, he said he thought that molesting boys – unlike girls – was “not considered a criminal offense.”

## Sexual miseducation

But in the broader issue of sexual abuse of minors, Liu is not alone.

As recently as September 8, a 9-year-old girl known by the pseudonym Xiao Qi was found to have been repeatedly raped over three years by her neighbor, a 50-year-old man surnamed Qin.

The abuse was only discovered when Xiao Qi's mother, a woman surnamed Liu, found blood in her daughter's underwear and took her to the hospital. Doctors informed her that her daughter's hymen had ruptured and that she had several gynecological infections.

When Xiao Qi told her mother that Qin had touched her, she was unwilling to believe her since the two frequently greeted each other on the street.

Xiao Qi said she was asked to go to Qin's home every weekend and told to “look happy or face even more serious abuse.” Qin also told her that if she revealed the sexual abuse she would end up pregnant.

## A growing trend

There have been countless cases of child molestation during the last decade.

In September 2007, the 63-year-old Henan Province legislator Wu Tianxi was executed for kidnapping and raping 36 girls between the ages of 12 and 16 in less than a year. Police said it was due to Wu's “superstitious belief” that having sex with virgins could help him end a streak of bad luck. Most of the girls were middle school students kidnapped by a gang he had hired.

That same year, a Guizhou Province couple Zhao Qingmei and her husband Chi Yao were sentenced to death for forcing 23 underage girls – one of whom was their niece – into prostitution. The youngest was 11 years old.

In 2009, a Beijing Children's Hospital doctor named Gu Chengsuo was arrested for molesting two of his patients, a pair of girls aged 6 and 12.

While many psychologists have attempted to explain the impulses that drive people to sexually abuse children,



Traumatic abuse often leads to serious psychological problems and can break up the family.

CFP Photos



Schools have started to teach children basic knowledge about sex.

there seem to be few common factors other than a difficult adolescence. Cai Chenrui, a psychologist in Beijing, said psycho-sexual problems are often tied to disordered memories of one's early years.

But more than psychological issues, it's the occupations of many molesters that are cause for worry.

Teachers and doctors enjoy an exceptional level of trust in society. Many parents are unwilling to entertain the idea that they could be causing harm. Friendly neighbors are also the last people most Chinese parents would suspect of child abuse.

But the facts show otherwise.

In the last three years, teachers including Wang Daoen, headmaster of a private school in Beijing, a man surnamed Lei, a primary school teacher in Chengdu, and Yuan Zhenshan, a primary school teacher in Beijing, were arrested and convicted of child molestation. Wang and Yuan were both sentenced three years in prison.

There have also been several cases involving doctors, though in many cases they were found not guilty due to confusion over where medical procedures end and molestation begins. The difficulty in collecting

evidence in such cases also makes it hard for the courts to mete out punishment.

## Undeveloped laws

Chinese criminal law only makes it a crime to engage in sexual relations with a girl younger than 14. It says nothing of boys or fondling.

Sun Wenjie, a lawyer who often deals with child abuse, said all forms of molestation should be treated as equivalent to rape to avoid giving predators room to escape punishment. He also said a detailed list of acts which constitute “molestation” should be spelled out to show adults what they cannot do and teach children what they cannot accept.

Parents may also be to blame. In one Guangdong forum, a user Laojianghu advised other parents that it was “wrong” to report child molestation since it “ruins the lives of the children.” Chinese society places a heavy emphasis on pre-marital chastity in girls, he said.

To a certain extent, many of the cases may be related to a lack of sexual education.

China's school system remains overtly conservative, and topics such as human sexuality are still taboo in most schools.

While some city schools have sex ed classes, they remain separated by gender even through high school.

Li Qian, a judge in the Fengtai Court in Beijing, said both children and parents are typically unaware of the risk of child molestation. Parents of boys think it's impossible for their children to be the targets of sexual predators.

## Nowhere to go

Yu Donghui, a member of the Psychological Crisis Intervention Alliance, said children who are assaulted need to be reached within 72 hours of the act since it is their most confusing time. However, few parents are willing to take their children to see a professional counselor.

“I once had to talk to an 18-year-old woman who was suffering from serious depression. She even attempted suicide by cutting her wrists,” he said. “Depression that has reached that stage can develop into lifelong mental illness.”

Jiang Yue'e, head of the Women's Rights Department at the All-China Women's Federation, said the country needs more organizations to protect underage children. “The current level of social supervision is also far from enough,” she said.

But Chinese educators may finally be trying to make a change.

This semester, students in Fushun received a new textbook that explains the details of molestation using plain language and drawings suitable for both boys and girls.

Wu Shaoxian, Secretary of the Department of Education in Fushun, said the department had invited many parents to offer their input in crafting a book that would be both useful for the children and acceptable for families.

“Only when you have a better understanding of yourself and respect yourself can you protect yourself,” he said.



# Bright ideas for nightlights

By DIAO DIAO

Beijing Today Staff

Finding your way to the toilet in the middle of the night can be a challenge. The chairs, tables and pets of the day morph into sinister obstacles out to ruin your toes.

And even if you find your way there, the strong light can make it hard to fall back asleep. It's especially difficult during the winter, when longer nights leave our eyes more adjusted to the dark.

Night lights might be a better solution. We've found a few that are both cute and convenient.

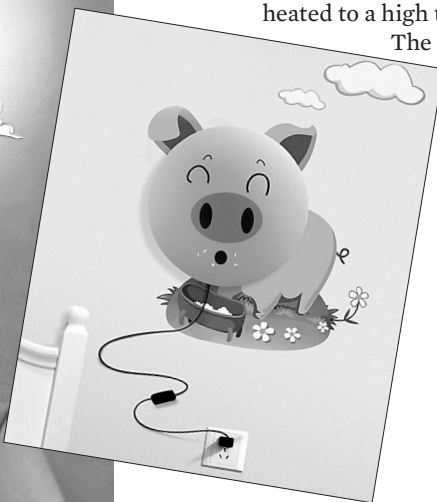


## Sticker lamp

This new lamp can be attached to any wall to save space in your room. It is made of safe materials that won't release harmful chemicals into the air when heated to a high temperature.

The set includes a lamp and stickers. The stickers are strong, environmentally friendly and easily removable. The lamp can become part of the picture. There are balloon, dog, sunflower, pig and sun patterns from which to choose.

Web: ii.com.cn



## Light operated lamp

This lamp is similar to the sticker lamp but more convenient. It can stick to any wall and is operated by light. It switches on automatically when the room goes dark. The soft light is guaranteed not to disrupt sleep.

The lamp can be used for up to 100 million hours and the plastic materials can withstand high temperatures. Its installation and use are safe for children.

The lamp comes in four patterns: caterpillars, owls, snails and moons and stars.

Web: ii.com.cn



## Rabbit lamp

This rabbit lamp is popular with girls. It uses an LED bulb that draws only one kilowatt hour every 10 years. The lamp is both voice operated and button controlled. Make a sound to switch it on or press the button to keep the light enabled.

The LED bulb is located in the round, puffball tail of the ceramic rabbit. Since it's an LED light, its brightness is guaranteed never to fade. It's available in two colors: a white one called "Jun Jun" and a pink one called "Mei Mei."

The rabbits double as piggy banks.

Web: ii.com.cn



## Potted lamp

This lamp seems designed for lovers given its red cast. It looks like a potted plant with a glass dome.

The small flower pot is made of pure white material. It has a layer of artificial grass on the surface that never fades even if it's not cleaned. Some users have said it resembles a crystal ball.

The lamp is available with other patterns such as stars, Christmas trees and sunflowers. The lamp tends to be warm to the touch.

Web: ii.com.cn

Photos by ii.com.cn

## Plants vs Zombies lamp

Tired of Plants vs Zombies plushies? How about a lamp? The lamp has a sunflower, pea shooter, potato shield and zombie on its base: the backyard stage. The base and characters act as the lights.

To change the brightness of the lamp just reposition the zombie. The closer he gets to the plants the brighter they shine. The base unit lights up when the zombie enters the danger zone.

Web: ii.com.cn





# Crash course in Chinese crabs

By DIAO DIAO  
Beijing Today Staff

Crab season is here! Whether you prefer Shanghai's favorite hairy crabs or their ocean-dwelling cousins, September is the month with the freshest crab at the best prices.

When shopping for crabs in China, it's important to be able to identify a healthy crab and determine its sex.

Good crabs will have a dark, reddish shell and a very white belly. You'll know you picked right if there's very little water inside the crab after cooking. Female crabs can be identified by the rounded shape of their "apron," the section of shell bisecting the belly. Male crabs have an apron that comes to a sharp point.

Most people think that crabs don't have intestines, but that couldn't be further from the truth! Crabs have many organs which need to be removed before eating.

When you first open the crab you will have to remove its stomach, which often contains a lot of glop. It's easy to confuse the stomach with the ovaries because they are so close. The stomach is triangular and located near the top.

There are a few other things that need to be removed. The first are the cottony gills that are connected to the front part of the shell. After that is the gray, hexagonal heart. The last piece should be the crab's intestines, which pass through the middle of the crab and attach to its apron.

Eat the crab by biting along the folds in its meat. The layers of meat connected to its ribs have clear divi-

sions. Next, eat the crab's legs and feet. Most of the meat is located in the first segment of each leg. Break off the top and bottom of the leg and push the meat upward using the sharp side. The meat in crab legs is especially soft and chewy.

Most Chinese families prefer to eat crab with a homemade dip of ginger, seafood soy sauce and black vinegar.

If you really want to show off your crab eating knowledge, start with the legs and save the body for last. The body traps heat the longest so you will be able to eat it all before it goes cold.

In spite of the international popularity of Laotian dishes like stir-fried eggplant and crab or crab and pear salad, doctors of Chinese medicine believe such combinations to be fatally poisonous. Most will advise against eating crab with persimmons, pears, peanuts and eggplants.

The easiest way to cook your crabs is to steam or boil them. Scrub the crabs clean and place them in a pot of water with a generous slice of ginger and boil them for 20 minutes. To steam the crabs, boil the water first and place them on a steaming rack with a sprig of basil for the same time. The white side of the crabs should face upward.

Other ways to cook crabs are more difficult and involve complicated seasonings. Most crab lovers are happy enough to just enjoy the fresh and original flavor.



CPF Photos

